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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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High-Level Yugoslav Delegation to Visit Turkey

Yugoslav Federal Executive Council President Mika Spilak and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Marko Nikezic will visit Turkey 29 March to 2 April, according to an official announcement.

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COMMENT: This visit repays one made by Turkish Foreign Minister Sabri Caglayangil to Yugoslavia in March 1967 and should be routine. Yugoslav-Turkish relations have progressed well in the last few years, and during the upcoming visit a consular treaty will probably be concluded as well as final agreements for establishing consular missions in Zagreb and Izmir.

Bebler Discusses Vietnam With Indira Gandhi

During his visit to New Delhi, Ales Bebler, Tito's personal advisor on Vietnam suggested that India, Canada, Poland, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union issue a statement calling for the cessation of US bombing of North Vietnam. The appeal would be accompanied by a call for Hanoi's agreement to attend a Geneva-type meeting within a certain period after the halt of the bombing. The meeting would be attended by all interested parties and would determine the final internationally supervised ending of the war.

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COMMENT: Bebler had hoped to use Indian backing for his scheme to persuade the USSR to agree to it. Now, he is back on dead center, with Moscow still the key to furthering his plan. So far, the Yugoslavs have not informed Hanoi of their efforts, and the unsatisfactory relations between the two regimes bodes ill for Bebler's success. the Yugoslav charge in Peking, who is also accredited to

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Hanoi, has tried several times to visit there, but has always been refused permission by the North Vietnamese on one excuse or another.

Yugoslavs Continue to Seek Meeting of European Parliamentarians

The Yugoslav federal assembly is still pushing its 2-year-old proposal for a meeting of European parliamentarians. The Group of Ten (formerly Group of Nine) small European states would serve as the organizing committee for such a conference, which would discuss East-West detente and European security. Although the problem of German attendance has been a major stumbling block, the Yugoslavs do not feel strongly one way or the other about East German participation and do not wish to see the meeting fail because of this issue.

[redacted] Belgrade will not press for the meeting if a large majority of European representatives oppose the idea. Up to now, Rumania has offered strong support. The Soviets oppose the idea. [redacted]

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COMMENT: The Yugoslav drive for the conference has picked up steam lately. Apparently the Danes have accepted the Yugoslav proposal that representatives of the Ten meet soon in Copenhagen to prepare a European parliamentary conference. Foreign Minister Luns of The Netherlands, the latest nation to join the group, ended his talks in Belgrade on 17 March by joining in a statement giving full support to the action of the Ten and calling for a "well-prepared" conference on European security.

Greek Coup Draws Albania Closer to Yugoslavia

Tirana reportedly approached Belgrade at the time of the Greek coup, inquiring if Yugoslavia would come to Albania's aid in case the latter were attacked by the Greeks-- [redacted]

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[redacted] When asked how they could approach a country for assistance that they had repeatedly called a "stooge of American imperialism," the Albanians passed it off, replying such statements were merely demands made by their alliance with China. Yugoslavia's response to the query is not known. [redacted]

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COMMENT: Rival Greek-Albanian claims to Northern Epirus have reportedly given Tirana a few anxious moments in view of the military government in Athens, but this is the first report that Albania actually sought assistance in case of Greek-Albanian hostilities.

Possible Movement In Cases Of US Citizens Held by East Germany

Gerhard Beil, an East German Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, has informed [redacted] that if the US grants a visa to him so that he may visit this country, the East Germans will release the "preferred" one of the two US citizens they now hold captive. Beil added that he would like to visit the US in the very near future, subject to approval of his plans by his "superiors."

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The State Department has already decided to grant the visa to Beil, but in the hope of getting both prisoners released, is testing the East Germans to see how strongly Pankow wants Beil to enter the US. Accordingly, the Department [redacted] would like to have the entire problem of prisoners resolved before it issues the visa. [redacted]

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The Department also instructed Embassy Bonn to inform the West German Foreign Office of the US intention to admit Beil. The Embassy replied on 15 March that the West Germans had no objections to the issuance of a visa to Beil under the circumstances. [redacted]

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COMMENT: Among other things, the East Germans have attempted to arrange a swap of the two US prisoners, Ronald Wiedenhoeft and Peter Feinauer, for convicted Soviet spy Igor Ivanov. The Department refused this "deal" out of hand. The East Germans may now be attempting to get what they consider to be the most they can get from the US in return for the release of a prisoner. On the other hand, however, they may be testing the US position to see how much more they can obtain. We would presume that the "preferred" prisoner from the GDR viewpoint would be Wiedenhoeft, for Feinauer has been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for espionage. Wiedenhoeft has yet to come to trial. [redacted]

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